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CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS ATTEND SUMMIT

PA061906 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1741 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Report by Roberto Carballo from the Guatemalan Air Force military airport -- live]

[Excerpt] This morning, the Central American presidents were welcomed at the Guatemalan Air Force airport in a protocol ceremony under tight security. The Honduran, Costa Rican, and Salvadoran presidents arrived in a synchronized manner. Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo welcomed them.

The protocol ceremony consisted of a welcome at the airplane stairs by the Guatemalan president, the playing of the respective national anthems, and the introduction and welcome by the Guatemalan entourage.

The Guatemalan entourage was comprised of the vice president, the secretary of the Presidency, the president of the Congress, and twelve other government officials. Afterward, each Central American country's entourage was introduced to the Guatemalan president and then left for the hotel where the meeting will be held. [passage omitted]

1,000 Protest Ortega's Presence

PA061925 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1825 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- This morning some 1,000 Nicaraguan exiles and Guatemalan anticommunists demonstrated against Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega opposite the hotel where the "Esquipulas II summit" is being held.

The protest march against the presence of the Nicaraguan president in Guatemala started in the southern part of this capital and ended at the "Camino Real" Hotel where the presidential "summit" is being held, but the demonstrators were prevented from reaching the hotel by a National Police antiriot squad.

The demonstration of discontent over Ortega's presence in Guatemala was organized by the regional group of Nicaraguan exiles, by the ultra right-wing National Liberation Movement (MLN), and by a little-known group calling itself "Catholic Youths."

President Daniel Ortega was the first to arrive today at the Guatemalan capital, followed by Costa Rica's Oscar Arias, and Honduras' Jose Azcona Hoyo.

The region's presidents, who are attending the "summit" today and tomorrow to discuss Costa Rica President Oscar Arias' peace plan, were received with official honors at the Guatemalan Air Force (FAG) airport.

The protest demonstration against Ortega, in which some 1,000 Nicaraguan exiles and Guatemalan anticommunists took part, was carried out simultaneously with a parade of school children who marched toward the "Camino Real" Hotel to receive the dignitaries.

The demonstrators are at "La Reforma" Avenue beside the building housing the "summit." The demonstrators had signs asking for "Liberty and Democracy in Nicaragua."

The police have not taken action, despite the warning from Minister of Interior Juan Jose Rodil Peralta that "exiles are not allowed to take part in political activities," and if they marched "they could be deported."

Guatemala's Cerezo Opens Summit

PA062042 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1843 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Speech by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo opening the Central American presidential summit at the Camino Real Hotel in Guatemala City -- live]

[Text] Dear friends, presidents of the Central American republics; dear friends who are visiting us on this occasion for political or journalistic purposes:

Because I am the host of this meeting, I must declare open the second meeting of Central American presidents to seek paths that will consolidate peace and coexistence among our countries.

I must state, on behalf of the Guatemalan people, that you are welcome here and that we are trying to build a society in which all people of goodwill can feel comfortable at home and can work with us to build peace, democracy, and the participation of the people in the construction of their own destiny.

We know there is much interest in this meeting in the entire world, particularly among all those institutions and political and religious leaders who have constantly worked to build peace in the world and a society of international solidarity, respectful of the autonomy and the people's right to choose the society they want.

To all of them, to all the world, to the Guatemalan people and to the Central American peoples, I can state that we wish to now begin the path toward peace. As good political leaders, we cannot promise any miracles but we can say we will use all possible arguments, all our emotional strength, and all our will to create the adequate climate that will permit the highest leaders of the Central American peoples to build the necessary base for coexistence, stabilize our political situation, and use our resources to face the grave economic and social problems that affect our peoples and to build a Central American society that will coexist and participate and will be an example for the world's nations on how they can reach agreements to resolve differences through dialogue and concerted efforts and prevent confrontation.

To all those who would like to continue at war, we say we are tired of suffering and dying and we want to build so as to have a better life.

Welcome to Guatemala, which at this time wants to be the home and place where we can contribute to a more peaceful democratic, and participatory society. Thank you very much on behalf of the Guatemalan people for having chosen us and for being with us. May God bless us. [applause]

Ortega News Conference

PA062020 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1657 GMT 6 Aug 87

[News conference by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto with international and Guatemalan journalists in the Atitlan Room of Guatemala City's Camino Real Hotel -- live]

[Text] [Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] [Word indistinct] the journalists, who are covering this event in which the Central American presidents are making an effort to attain the peace our peoples are demanding.

It is true that yesterday President Reagan presented an initiative... [2-second break in reception] a peace initiative, which we consider positive. Indisputably, that is not the otpic to be discussed here at the Guatemala meeting. The topic of discussion in this presidential meeting is President Arias' peace plan, which is included in the framework of the Contadora Group negotiating efforts.

The U.S. initiative made by President Reagan himself, makes sense, because he has once again shown the U.S. Government's political will is in the middle of a very specific conflict. If that is not the case, then how can we explain that the U.S. Government presents that kind of initiative.

It shows the need for the United States, which is conducting a specific policy of war and aggression against Nicaragua, to accept a dialogue with Nicaragua. In line with President Reagan's initiative, we hope all our initiatives are made in a truly constructive spirit. We have expressed our willingness to begin a dialogue immediately.

We could travel to Washington from Guatemala to meet with President Reagan in order to start a dialogue and establish the process for negotiations leading us to peace between the United States and Nicaragua. In this regard, Nicaragua also has several proposals it would present to the U.S. Government, and we could reach an agreement through a process of negotiations. That is the Nicaraguan Government's position.

[Moderator] [Announcement indistinct]

[Reporter] Mr President, I would like to ask you whether it would be possible [words indistinct] [3-second break in reception] because it seems this is a delicate time [words indistinct] declared war [words indistinct].

[Ortega] I do not want to speculate on or describe the initiative. I want to respond to the fact there is an initiative. If there is an initiative, if President Reagan says the initiative is aimed at contributing to peace, then the right thing to do is to immediately try to set a meeting between the United States and Nicaragua to discuss the U.S. Government proposal, and to inform the United States of Nicaragua's proposals.

What are Nicaragua's initiatives? I can only say that our initiatives are aimed at seeking a mutual security agreement -- because the United States says it feels threatened by Nicaragua, and Nicaragua feels threatened and attacked by the United States. This attack has been confirmed by the International Court of Justice [ICJ], which is the world's highest justice court. The ICJ urged the United States to halt its aggression against Nicaragua.

The goal is to seek a security agreement, in which we agree to respect each other, not to interfere in each other's internal affairs, and to respect each other. It would not be a fair to interfere in Nicaragua's internal affairs and in the type of political regime the Nicaraguan people have chosen, or to establish in our country the type of political regime that the U.S. people have chosen for themselves.

The goal is to discuss the concern that the United States has regarding its security-- because it feels we are a threat to its security -- and to discuss Nicaragua's security. We are willing to reach specific agreements. We are willing to sign agreements -- which could be verified -- in which we eliminate all foreign military presence in our territory. The end of U.S. aggressive policy against Nicaragua is a very important matter, because it is the most destabilizing factor not only in Central America, but in all Latin America.

That is our proposal, which seeks a security framework wherein Nicaragua is willing to assume firm commitments with the United States. We are willing to commit ourselves not to establish foreign military bases and eliminate all foreign military presence in our territory. That spirit is in line with the spirit of the Central American and Contadora Group peace plans, which basically propose to turn Central America into a neutral, peace area, in which we will not have a single foreign military presence.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] the Central American context, I would like to ask you the following, Mr President: On 10 August -- in 4 days -- the new deadline for Nicaragua to reiterate its accusation against Costa Rica before the ICJ will expire. Will Nicaragua reiterate the accusation against Costa Rica within the Central American context?

[Ortega] Nicaragua respects international law. We believe all conflicts, all problems among states, must be resolved through established legal mechanisms. This is not the first time Nicaragua has taken other Central American countries and specific problems before the ICJ.

Nicaragua has respected all ICJ rulings. The problem the ICJ resolved between Nicaragua and Honduras regarding the territory [word indistinct]. The ICJ ruled in favor of Honduras, and Nicaragua has abided by that ruling.

Nicaragua has also respected the treaties of its borders with Costa Rica. This time Nicaragua has resorted to the ICJ to seek a way for Costa Rica and Nicaragua to create a security zone in the border area to guarantee stability between our two countries. The problem is Costa Rican territory is used for acts of provocation and aggression against Nicaragua.

Acts of provocation from Costa Rican territory -- clearly directed to affect this presidential summit in Guatemala -- have recently occurred. Costa Rica respects international law. Therefore, we see no reason to stop our efforts before the ICJ. However, this does not exclude the possibility of Costa Rica and Nicaragua reaching an agreement out of court, which would be the best solution. If we reach such an agreement, an ICJ trial would not be necessary. However, in the meantime, we must follow and continue with the legal mechanisms established by the ICJ.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, could the U.S. proposal be taken as an attempt to return to the bilateral Manzanillo talks?

[Ortega] That is what we hope and want. We feel it would be very important that during what could be viewed as the start of negotiations between the United States and Nicaragua, U.S. congressmen -- Democrats and Republicans -- are there as witnesses. [Words indistinct] They should put the good will of the United States (?and) Nicaragua to the test. There should also be a delegation from the Contadora Group.

If we managed to start a dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua, and include a delegation from Contadora and the U.S. Congress, we would have the proper environment for negotiations to be able to advance. We would not have [words indistinct]. There, we would be able to see if Reagan's proposal is intended as a propaganda ploy to impress the U.S. public and Congress and be able, therefore, to get the approval of new funds to continue the war or the interventionists escalation against Nicaragua. Or we will be able to see if, indeed, the U.S. President has decided to reach an understanding and a firm and lasting peace agreement with Nicaragua.

[Moderator] Voz de Nicaragua from [words indistinct] direct via satellite. Here are other questions. Somewhat informally, a woman asks to be given a microphone.

[Reporter] My name is [words indistinct] Commander Ortega, are going to be highly impressed by U.S. President Reagan's plan, which in reality (?contains veiled) threats [words indistinct].

[Ortega] Well, we have to look at the positive side of this initiative. No doubt, there are aspects in this initiative that will have to be discussed. Of course, Nicaragua does not agree with some of these aspects. When negotiations are mentioned, that means discussing specific proposals. In other words, we have to become acquainted with the proposal, discuss it, offer a counterproposal, and begin finding points of agreement until we reach a definitive agreement.

If we look at the positive side, which would be of interest in this case, the European Community and all the countries of the world have urged a dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua. Therefore, the positive aspect would be to encourage the United States, now. If it has this initiative and wants a dialogue, it should immediately begin a dialogue with Nicaragua. In holding discussions, we would be seeking reasonable points of understanding leading us to a just and honorable agreement.

[Reporter] Mr President, [words indistinct] in the Reagan plan there is a type of ultimatum in the last paragraph. It is said that [words indistinct] you said Contadora should act more strongly. What rule should Contadora play [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] Regarding President Reagan's initiative, he has reported that he has the support of the leader of the House of Representatives, a Democrat. It is certain if there was an attempt to impose this plan, this initiative on Nicaragua, then it would be an ultimatum. However, we understand the logical and reasonable thing would be that this proposal, this initiative, is being issued to continue a process of discussion and negotiation. Then in those conditions, we see the initiative as one we are willing to discusss. We are also confident that the U.S. Congress is not going to be so naive as to not understand that if it supports this as an ultimatum to Nicaragua, it would be a declaration of war on Nicaragua and the U.S. Congress would be endorsing the intervention of U.S. troops in Nicaragua. Therefore, we feel this is not what is at stake.

Now then, it could be that those are President Reagan's intentions because so far he has carried out a policy of attacking and destroying Nicaragua, ignoring the ruling of the International Court of Justice and ignoring the calls issued by the EEC, Latin America, and the entire world that he cease using aggression and reach a peace agreement with Nicaragua.

Regarding the strong stands of the Contadora and Support Groups, we feel it is very important they have participated in the foreign ministers' meeting held in Honduras prior to this meeting of presidents. We hope that Contadora and the Support Groups will maintain a firm position in the next few days after this presidential meeting in Guatemala and they will defend a Latin American position in favor of peace in the face of the pressures from the United States. We all know the United States is exerting tremendous pressures on the Contadora Group countries. It exerts pressure, makes threats, and engages in blackmail so they will not participate in the negotiating process, so they will not economically contribute to the Central American countries. They are under those pressures. The maintenance of a firm and strong attitude depends on the steadfastness of the Latin American countries that are members of the Contadora and Support Groups. All things considered, th future of the processes of democratic openings in Latin America and the Caribbean is at stake with the survival of the Nicaraguan revolution. One must not see the Contadora and Support Groups as saving Nicaragua's life. Instead, one must see the Contadora and Support Groups as a Latin American action that is saving the efforts for peace and democracy currently being undertaken in all of Latin America where we see there are very difficult and complex (?situations) to overcome.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, we maintain we have to meet with the U.S. Government to discuss those cease-fire conditions. One cannot reach an agreement through messages in the press. We, the United States and Nicaragua, must first sit down and discuss on what basis we are going to establish a cease-fire. Regarding this, we have very solid proposals.

[D'Escoto, in English] We do not think that it is practical to negotiate through declarations to the media. We do have concrete proposals to make to the United States with regard to how to proceed to a cease-fire but we [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Regarding democracy in Nicaragua, we are carrying it out. It is not a matter of discussing Nicaraguan democracy now. In other words, I think each country and all people do what corresponds to them domestically and this cannot be the object of negotiations among states. The domestic matters [words indistinct] and in Nicaragua we are developing a democratic regime [words indistinct].

[D'Escoto, in English] Nicaragua has been since the time of the revolution well into the process of democratization. We do not believe, however, that these kinds of internal affairs ought to be discussed in international agreements because otherwise we would have to present our own ideas about what to do in the United States to make it more democratic.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] They are situations that are totally different. In the first place, it is clear that the aggression that Nicaragua is suffering comes from a power named the United States. The president of that power has told the U.S. press and public: I am a contra. In the U.S. congress funds are approved to wage war on Nicaragua. The U.S. Army and organizations like the CIA and State Department are involved in the entire plan against Nicaragua. The [ICJ] ruling clearly stated this. It said that Nicaragua is suffering from an external aggression that must cease. The case of El Salvador is completely different from that of Nicaragua because in no congress of the world is there discussion of financing for the Salvadoran revolutionaries. The struggle in El Salvador began because of well-known reasons even before the revolution triumphed in Nicaragua. At one time, even President Duarte partipated during a very active period and joined the struggle waged by the Salvadoran guerrillas against the unjust and oppressive regime the Salvadoran people experienced.

Then President Duarte assumed the presidency and now we are facing an uncommon political situation. There is a domestic problem, a domestic conflict. However, the Salvadoran rebels favor a peaceful solution. The Salvadoran problem is due to external factors. It is due to the U.S. interventionist policy against Nicaragua, and therefore, it must be resolved by the United States. Hence, it was not surprising to learn that yesterday the U.S. Government, President Reagan himself, made an offer that directly involves Nicaragua. In this case, we have nothing to discuss with Calero and the group accompanying him, because the owner of the circus, so to speak, is Reagan. In other words, the one who pays and finances them is Reagan. So, we must talk with the owner of the circus, and not with the clowns. Now, if the clowns want to do something, they can go to Nicaragua, they can go there and fight, we will be waiting for them. We can talk to them in that field. Now, the clowns have another option, which is to accept the amnesty. They could accept the amnesty and take part in Nicaraguan political life just as other groups having different political and ideological positions do. Those groups have their own offices, they can demonstrate as long as they ask for authorization, as various parties of various affiliations, such as the Social Christian Party, the Conservative Party, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, and others, have done this year. That is our reply.

[Reporter] Mr President, I am [name indistinct] from NBC. I would like to have an English translation. Elliott Abrams, the assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, said last night that you are delaying the peace process by demanding a direct dialogue with the United States, and that you were rejecting his [Reagan's] offer. What is your opinion on this, and are you rejecting President Reagan's offer?

[Ortega] We are not rejecting President Reagan's offer. On the contrary, we are willing to discuss that offer, and to hear his viewpoints in a bilateral dialogue. Who made the offer? The U.S. Government. So, if the U.S. Government makes an offer that has to do with Nicaragua, it should discuss it with the Nicaraguan Government. The U.S. Government has made an offer, so logically, the Nicaraguan Government must reply to that offer. So, the dialogue must be between the U.S. and Nicaraguan governments.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Totally, because this effort we Central Americans are making here is centered on a specfic topic, which is the peace plan presented by President Arias within the Contadora Group's framework. This is what we will discuss in the meeting that will take place in the next few hours. There is no reason why we should discuss President Reagan's initiative here, as it specifically refers to Nicaragua. As I said, in that regard we are ready and willing to immediately begin a dialogue with the United States, in Washington, in Managua, or in any other country, it could also be in Manzanillo [Mexico]. We could resume the Manzanillo talks.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct, in English]

[Ortega] If the United States refuses to hold talks with Nicaragua, it means that all this is only a propagandistic action, a farce, so that the U.S. Congress will approve funds to continue the war against Nicaragua, and even to get political support from Congress to invade Nicaragua, which may be what President Reagan really wants. If that is not the case, President Reagan should agree to hold talks with Nicaragua.

[D'Escoto, translating Ortega's answer into English] The Government of the United States -- President Reagan -- has made a proposal, a proposal to dialogue with them around this proposal. We have accepted the invitation to engage in the first [words indistinct] for normalization of relations through the negotiations process. If they refuse to talk to us it (?proves) that the whole thing has been a sham, a publicity stunt, with the view of impressing [words indistinct] enough to be impressed. Here at this meeting we have come with a specific agenda that has been in preparation for a long time and that is to discuss the Arias peace plan within the context of the Contadora peace process.

[Reporter] The Costa Rican president has said that he is not willing to reach an out-of-court agreement on the charges filed at the ICJ and that, in his opinion, the withdrawal of charges should be a unilateral decision. Would your country be willing to unilaterally withdraw from the process following this presidential summit in order to improve relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua?

[Ortega] I believe that it is in the interest of both Costa Rica and Nicaragua to strengthen international legal norms, and not to play around with international laws. Consequently, if we informally withdraw our suit from the Court this would show a lack of respect for ourselves and international laws. The court, itself, would think that we are not acting seriously. Since the situation in Central America is so critical; since the Central American problems have not been settled; and since Central America is threatened by this conflict -- which is the result of major actions, even the invasion of the U.S. troops, themselves -- the important thing is to try to strengthen international legal norms and, in any case reach agreements outside the courts which would strengthen international legal norms.

Therefore, regarding the suit we have filed at the ICJ, this is not a matter of a unilateral withdrawal by Nicaragua. I believe that Costa Rica should not interpret this as a whimsical action by Nicaragua, because we are not interested in winning a legal battle over Costa Rica at the ICJ; this is not the issue. We are trying to prevent bloodshed among Central American brothers; we do not want that. The United States wants to promote bloodshed. We do not want bloodshed; we want to reach agreements to create a security zone, I repeat, at the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, so that we would have a minimum of guarantees in the two countries. Under those conditions we could reach an agreement outside court. Thus, we would not have to wait for the final ICJ ruling.

[Moderator] From EL DIA, from El Salvador, and HRN, Voz de Honduras Network.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Here, our answer is the same. We do not want to assess. This initiative is being tested on how willing the United States is to talk to Nicaragua. If the initiative has been made to truly find a negotiated solution to the conflict, then the United States would have to give a positive response concerning an immediate dialogue with Nicaragua, where we would learn more about the initiative and would discuss it, and where the United States would also learn about the Nicaraguan initiative.

If the United States does not agree to a dialogue with Nicaragua -- we are even talking about having U.S. Congressional representatives, which would strengthen and further guarantee such a dialogue -- if the United States does not agree to this, and does not agree to the participation of Contadora, if the United States does not agree to this then it would be proving that this is nothing but a propagandistic action by the U.S. Government to secure U.S. Congressional support for the coming voting on funds for the mercenaries. This would also be used to get better political conditions to launch a direct action against Nicaragua.

[Reporter] In the same way that Nicaragua is insistent about U.S. aggression, the Salvadoran Government has also maintained its firm position that its domestic situation is being destabilized because of the support Nicaragua provides to the guerrillas. How can you reconcile this position, which will be one of the main subjects of this summit.

[Ortega] We must be realistic. The fact is that the Salvadoran guerrillas have existed in El Salvador for many years.

There were guerrillas in El Salvador before the triumph of the revolution in Nicaragua. That is, we Nicaraguans did not invent the guerrillas in El Salvador. The Salvadoran guerrillas are the result of the unjust situation that the Salvadoran people have been experiencing. This is a very specific problem. There was a revolutionary movement in Nicaragua, and we eliminated the Somoza dictatorship -- because there was an unjust situation. Had the United States constructed a democracy in Nicaragua, there would have been neither guerrillas nor a revolution in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] What I know, which has been proven, is that a plane was downed in which a man who is in the United States today, whose name is Eugene Hasenfus, who is a U.S. citizen and was paid by the CIA, stated that the mercenaries' supplies were sent and are being sent from Ilopango Airport in El Salvador. All the documents that were captured clearly showed that there are aerial supplies from El Salvador for the mercenary forces. That is, the United States is using El Salvador as a springboard for the military supply of the mercenary forces. This is what has been proven.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] and what is your position concerning the [words indistinct] presented by the seven political parties in your country.

[Ortega] Well, the seven parties can present those nine points there at the National Assembly, because we have a pluralistic National Assembly. We have 15 political parties that participated in the elections and won their seats in the Assembly. That is the place where they can present all their viewpoints, and they can do it with complete freedom. Therefore, there is no reason for them to go and present them elsewhere.

As for the second question...

[Reporter, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, I believe that it has been clearly stated that there have been [words indistinct] and the subject that we will discuss here deals with the peace plan presented by President Arias. Therefore, we Central Americans will not be so irresponsible at this time -- because a new initiative by President Reagan has appeared -- as to disregard and set aside the Costa Rican peace plan and discuss the initiative presented by President Reagan.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] formal between the Salvadoran guerrillas and the Nicaraguan Army and Government?

[Ortega] Well, our relationship has been based on a negotiated solution. We have supported a negotiated solution to the Salvadoran conflict, we have shown this on several occasions and we have ratified this. We do not favor a military solution.

BOSCH ACQUITTAL 'ABOMINABLE AS SABOTAGE ITSELF'

FL061415 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] Cuba has called the decision of a Venezuelan court on terrorist Orlando Bosch an act as abominable as the sabotage itself. Bosch was one of the masterminds of the sabotage in Barbados of a Cuban airplane which exploded during flight and cost the life of 73 people.

A GRANMA editorial says the Venezuelan court which acquitted Bosch has become an accomplice with one of the most vandalistic, monstrous, and repugnant acts of the last 50 years. It adds: And if the immoral, unjust, and disgraceful decision becomes [words indistinct] it will also fall on Venezuelan justice.

Finally, GRANMA says textually: The people of Cuba, who for years, 11 years, (?have waited for) the sentencing of these bestial assassins and who will never allow an act like this to stain the memory of its unforgettable and sacred dead, are still confident that such an insult will be corrected by honorable Venezuelans, who form a majority.

Venezuelan Disgrace

FL061922 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Faced with the acquittal of the terrorist Orlando Bosch handed down by a Venezuelan court, Cuba's position could be none other than that expressed today by the newspaper GRANMA in its editorial entitled: An Act as Abominable as the Sabotage Itself.

Orlando Bosch, a bastard of imperialism, was one of the materminds of an act of sabotage in Barbados in October 1976, againsta Cuban airplane which exploded in the air, killing 73 people.

The Cuban people never forgot that crime, and never will. They mourned their dead, led by Fidel who proclaimed on that memorable occasion of sorrow: When a vigorous, virile people cry, injustice trembles.

As GRANMA says, the Venezuelan court which acquitted Bosch has become an accomplice in one of the most vandalistic, monstrous, and repugnant acts in this second half of the 20th Century. There was more than sufficient accumulated evidence to convict all the defendants. However, as Cuba's condemnation states, it was a scandalous judicial fraud, a history of vile tricks to save the two defendants who were of greatest interest to U.S. special services; that is, Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles. The other two second-rate mercenaries have been sacrificed for the moment for the sake of appearances.

Cuba's language is as clear as always when it says: This court and its venal, corrupt judges will shoulder the historical responsibility if such an immoral, unjust and opprobrious decision is allowed to stand. The blame will also fall on the Venezuelan system of justice. It will be a stain and a disgrace that can never be erased.

The Cuban people, who 11 years ago handed down their unappealable verdict of guilty on those bestial murderers, and who will never allow actions like these to stain the memory of their unforgettable, sacred dead, still trust that this insult will be averted by Venezuelans of honor, who are the majority.

PARAGUAYAN SUCCESSION LEADS TO PARTY SQUABBLES

PA051814 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Aug 87

["Our America" commentary, reader not identified]

[Text] The internal squabblings within the Colorado Party over the succession of the 70-ish Paraguayan Dictator Alfredo Stroessner took on a strong conflictive turn, bringing about police and Army mobilization.

A few days ago, the man who controls power for more than 30 years met with party presidential candidates, explaining to them that they should encourage internal harmony in view of this national entity's convention scheduled for this weekend.

Truly speaking, the internal party squabblings will not benefit the people, because definitely both militant and traditionalist factions advocate for Stroessner's reelection and only intend placing their candidates Sabino Montanaro and Juan Ramon Chavez, respectively, as seconds on ther dictatorial vessel. Anyway, the fights have been more than violent between representtives of both groups, to the extent that Paraguayan Minister of Justice and Labor Eugenio Jaquet accused as communists, philocommunists, cryptocommunists, and paracommunists, those Colorado Party members who oppose the militant trend.

Inside the Paraguayan political scene, the traditional opposition has been unable yet to produce a unifying project that can face up to the dictatorship. This group is called National Agreement [Acuerdo Nacional], grouping together Liberals, Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, and Colorado Party dissidents. One of their latest recourses has been to support the political dialogue proposal suggested by the church. However, Stroessner's regime has confirmed it does not have the slightest intention of talking to the remaining political organizations, sure of the weakness of his traditional opponents, and thus the easy reelection of the 74-year-old dictator.

The real danger for the domineering regime is with the people's organizations, which outside the traditional opposition forces, exert a growing influence on the masses. Among them are work and peasant entities who primarily advocate the return of real democracy which allows for the true exercise of national will. Meanwhile, Washington follows attentively the Paraguayan situation and seems to place as a condition to continuing the prolonged support for Stroessner the elder leader's carrying out certain internal reforms to give the dictatorship a democratic face.

Within this context are the recent economic measures adopted by Washington toward Paraguay, encouraging the end of preferential trade tariffs that this South American country enjoyed in the U.S. market. Of course, this measure follows the irrational protectionism that Washington applies, while it does not mean a serious danger for Storessner, owing to Paraguay's low level of exports.

In reality, the greatest benefit that the dictatorship receives comes from gratuities from transnational companies, owners of nearly all the country's fertile land. All this outlook indicates that the real will for change lies really with the Paraguayan masses, which in the end are the ones who suffer the consequences of the brutal power installed since 1954.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FORMER PRESIDENT BLANCO ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLEMENT

FL061253 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] A Dominican judge has accused ex-President Salvador Jorge Blanco of embezzling millions of dollars in state funds. The judge said in an order sent Tuesday to a criminal court that Mr Jorge Blanco conspired with a banker and a businessman to embezzle the equivalent of $35 million through the sale of vehicles and equipment to the army and police at triple the normal price.

Judge Concepcion ordered Mr Jorge Blanco to prison in March for his role in the alleged embezzlement. The former President sought refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy and then fled to Atlanta, Georgia in the States for treatment for a heart ailment and he has not yet returned.

HAITI

CLERGY MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON JEAN-RABEL PROBE

FL062226 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] A group of clergy has addressed suggestions to the special committee investigating the Jean-Rabel affair.

The note says: We priests, monks, and nuns signing this declaration, who are in the service of the Haitian people in this year of solidarity with the peasants, denounce all the maneuvers being effected by the enemies of the people with a view at dividing the peasants so that they can continue to exploit them further. We are protesting, together with all the peasants in the Cooperation Group of Jean-Rabel, because of the enemy, who has massacred them and because of the plot to undo all the work of liberation that the peasants in the said area are accomplishing.

We say to everyone in general, to all the families who are victims of the calamity that has befallen Jean-Rabel, that we are praying for them, suffering and mourning with them, and working so that justice and peace may be firmly established in that entire area.

But today we are here particularly to complain about the way the government has organized the investigating committee for the Jean-Rabel catastrophe. We would like to ask the investigating committee, as well as the people who formed it, to consider the following important points:

We are going to give you the points the monks and nuns consider important. It is not the national television station's guide [as heard], nor anyone like him, who can lead the group going around the area asking questions. There must be a climate of trust, so the peasants can speak freely and without fear. The civilian militia that is sowing terror in Jean-Rabel must be disarmed before the investigation.

An investigation of the tactical battalion operating in the area and which questioned the missionary team must also be carried out. This is a very important point, emphasize the priests and nuns.

The investigating committee should understand there can not be a serious investigation conducted if it does not address the root of the problem, which is a problem of land ownership in the area and (?especially) justice for the peasants in Gros Sable, who had 15 houses burned by the big landowners on 9 May 1986. Justice for those peasants, who have already brought suit before the Court of Appeals in Gonaives in January of 1987, where the suit is stuck, without any hope of its one day being settled. Also, the members of the missionary team must explain their side of the story in the Jean-Rabel area itself and they must receive the security necessary for them to do so.

That is what the group of priests and nuns signing this note ask. Among the signatures are those of (Myrtha Michel), Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, Joseph Philippe, Paul Antoine Dieudonne, Father Emile Joseph, (Durinvil Marseille), Sister (Roselene Lagodele). There are some 20 signatures at the bottom of the note; signatures of priests, monks, and nuns.

4 ARRESTS MADE IN ASSASSINATION OF POLITICIAN

FL061218 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] Reports from Haiti say four members of a group alleged to have murdered a Haitian politician last Sunday have been arrested. Luis Eugene Athis and two of his aides were killed by a mob using stones and machetes. The mob had accused Mr Athis of being a communist.

A group of 36 U.S. congressmen have signed a letter deploring the violence in Haiti and calling for a suspension of military aid to the country.

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP SENDS CABLE TO NAMPHY

FL061246 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] The newly-formed Caribbean Human Rights network has sent a cable to the head of the ruling government in Haiti, Henri Namphy, on the human rights situation there. It says the group is alarmed at recent deaths in what it calls repression generated by the constitutional crisis.

ARIAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SUMMIT, STRESSES AGENDA

PA061649 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has said he is ready to attend new meetings, provided they all have an agenda. He admitted that it is not easy to attain peace in only one meeting.

President Arias said the new meetings must adhere to an agenda whose goal is to reach agreements.

Arias Sanchez said that continuing to meet without informing the Central American peoples of the progress on specific agreements is mocking the talks.

It is not easy to reach agreements when a conflict exists. Regarding Central America, the Contadora Group has not reached any substantive agreement in over 4 years, President Arias said.

Arias thinks great progress was made at the foreign ministers' meeting held in Tegucigalpa over the weekend. He hopes progress will continue at the 4-5 August meeting.

Similarly, Arias Sanchez is optimistic regarding the possibility of the Central American presidents reaching specific agreements at the 6-7 August summit.

Arias said his goal is to reach an agreement on all the points covered by his peace proposal. However, he said one's wishes are not necessarily possible and that progress is really important for him, to show there is willingness to reach peace, and a desire to meet again.

Arias reiterated that the most important thing at the Guatemalan summit is to establish important matters to attain peace and hold other meetings.

After reiterating his willingness to attend other peace-seeking meetings, president Arias said [word indistinct] meetings, if we give up negotiations, we will be opening a road to war. Costa Rica rejects that; it rejects the idea of resolving conflicts through armed struggles and not through negotiations as civilized people.

President Arias expressed his support for the search of effective and prompt solutions to end the regional crisis that is causing serious problems to the area nations.

President Arias said the Central American presidents will face an enormous challenge and responsibility in the coming presidential summit in Guatemala.

Arias believes the area presidents must make a great effort to give in, compromise, and reach agreements.

Although he said he does not know whether agreements will be reached on all the points covered by the Costa Rican peace plan, he said he knows the presidents will make great progress at the meeting.

President Arias said it is necessary for the United States to accept and obey a recommendation by the area presidents to suspend foreign assistance, and to respect a cease-fire if it is agreed on in the future.

Similarly, Arias said the same situation applies to the Salvadoran guerrillas and to those who support them, whether it is the Soviet Union or Fidel Castro. The truth is that like the Nicaraguan contra movement, the guerrillas should contribute to the goal of peace in El Salvador.

The role of mediator that our country has been playing [word indistinct] in the search for regional peace, because the truth is that the Central American problems affect us, but Costa Rica is not a problem for Central America.

While describing the role played by Costa Rican Foreign Minister; Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto at the Tegucigalpa foreign ministers' meeting, the Costa Rican president said: We want to cooperate, contribute, and serve as mediators.

Arias stressed that Costa Rica acts as mediator to try to smooth disagreements among countries with opposing positions and try to harmonize different viewpoints, because there are foreign positions [as heard] between Nicaragua and El Salvador.

CLANDESTINE GROUP EMERGES, THREATENS EXECUTIONS

PA062350 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2102 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- A new clandestine organization, which did not define its political orientation, today threatened to "execute" several Salvadoran politicians accused of "being involved in acts of violence."

The "Salvadoran Salvation Army" [Ejercito Salvadoreno de Salvacion] announced that "it agreed at a general assembly to execute several persons" belonging to several right-wing political parties, members of the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and leaders of labor orgainziations.

Commander "Waldo," in a telephone call to the press, said "they will investigate Jesuit Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University; Guillermo Rojas, labor leader, and Julio Cesar Portillo of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS).

Also included in that list are Roberto D'Aubuisson, of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), Atilio Vieytez (PDC), Culture and Communications Minister Julio Rey Predens (PDC), Hugo Barrera of the National Liberation Party, and Julia Castillo of the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party (PAISA).

The ESS has in its ranks "250 men in Santa Ana, Usulutan, San Miguel, and San Salvador."

Commander "Waldo" affirmed that the ESS will investigate "anyone who stages actions against the people and will counter the activities of the death squads operating in the United States."

In the past months, the "Secret Anticommunist Army" threatened to "execute" 20 university leaders who were accused of "terrorism."

Meanwhile, a clandestine organization known as the "National Military Council," has fiercely criticized the Salvadoran Army, which it accused of being "domesticated and of allowing the guerrillas to become stonger."

TINOCO: ARIAS PLAN CONTINGENT ON U.S. ACCEPTANCE

PA060154 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinco has remarked that compliance with any agreements reached on the basis of the Arias plan depends on the United States ending the aggression and stopping financial support to the counterrevolutionaries.

This is one of the observations we are making to the peace plan proposed by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias because (?a mere exhortation) is not enough; instead, acceptance by the White House is required to end the war.

A meeting of area foreign ministers and of the Contadora Group has adjourned in Honduras. First, it reviewed the Arias plan as one of the chief topics to be discussed at the summit scheduled for Guatemala City on 6-7 August.

If we make an appeal and conclude a peace agreement, but Washington does not end its support to the irregular groups, the Arias plan will not work. The [words indistinct] among the Central Americans [words indistinct] the United States, Tinoco said.

CONTRA LEADERS ON SUMMIT, REAGAN PLAN, CEREZO

PA070015 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisora Unidas in Spanish 2212 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] A news conference held by the board of Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], which is made up of Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, Alfredo Cesar, Azucena Ferrey, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Aristides Sanchez, and Adolfo Robelo, among others, ended a few minutes ago.

During the new conference, the contras -- which, according to them, are now called the Nicaraguan Resistance -- made the sensational revelation that one of the best political allies on whom they count in Central America is President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo. Thus, they have contradicted the government's assertion that it pursues a policy of active neutrality regarding Central American problems, which tend to grow worse every day.

During today's news conference, the RN also made an appeal to the Guatemalan press that, beginning today, they do not want to be called contras or counterrevolutionaries. They assert that this is a pejorative term detracting from the credibility and legitimacy which, they say, they enjoy in international public opinion circles.

In addition, today they released a letter they sent to President Cerezo which says, among other things: We wish to take advantage of the meeting of Central American presidents to present to your excellency some observations [consideraciones] about the peace plan which has been presented by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, with a great spirit of peace, as a substantial contribution to the search for a resolution of the problem that originated in Nicaragua and affects the whole region. Through this, we reiterate our support of an alternative we have publicly supported from its inception.

Mr President Cerezo, it is clear to us that the resolution of the Central American crisis must include the fulfillment of a basic and indispensable stage for us to be able to seriously and objectively address the rest of the problem. This stage must necessarily be the fulfillment of a genuine process of democratization in Nicaragua. The civil war in our homeland is the natural reaction of a people against a Marxist-Leninist tyranny that has frustrated the historic struggle waged by the Nicaraguan people in 1979, through which a military dictatorship was overthrown to establish a democratic and pluralistic society.

Among other things, they feel the entire internal and external Nicaraugan opposition, which logically includes the RN, must participate in the peacemaking process from the start, including the national dialogue inside Nicaragua, and that, in addition, the process must include a national and international supervison by a follow-up committee, with representatives of all Central American countries, the OAS, and the United Nations.

As we said, the letter is signed by the RN board, which is made up of six people who are staying in a hotel located half a block from the Esquipulas II meeting, where they have even set up a veritable communications facility [aparato] and a public relations team, which is now formally established in Guatemala. The government will have to explain this, bearing in mind that is claims to pursue an active neutrality regarding Central American problems. This indicates that the government will have to adopt a decision regarding allowing Nicaraguans opposed to the Sandinist government in Nicaragua to maintain a political arm in Guatemala like the one they have in Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Miami, in the United States.

They also said during the news conference that President Ronald Reagan's peace propoasl for Central America is a straightjacket for the Sandinist Government. According to them, President Daniel Ortega has fallen into a trap because he decided to come to the summit of Central American presidents to store up oxygen, bearing in mind that, according to his estimates, his participation in the summit of Central American presidents would delay a U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua and also bearing in mind that this would shorten the time [available to] President Reagan's administration. Based on this, they feel Nicaragua must sign all proposals that arise.

They also stressed that if the Central American presidents manage to approve [firmar] Arias' peace plan for Central America, they would be the main losers, bearing in mind that the United States would then be subject to moral pressure from international public opinion, which would prevent it from continuing to provide economic and logistical support to the Nicaraguan contras.

This brings to an end our report on the news conference held by the RN in a well-known hotel in this capital.

ORTEGA CONGRATULATES CASTRO ON MONCADA ANNIVERSARY

PA292238 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sent a congratulations message to Cuban leader Fidel Castro on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack.

The message emphasizes that the combative unity of both peoples and the determination of both governments to reach peace and abolish the Monroe Doctrine are significant elements in the process of independence, self-determination, sovereignty, and democracy on the continent. Ortega said the Cuban people's struggle is an example of moral and material strength, which contributed to the overthrow of the Somozist dictatorship and now permits Nicaraguans to face the U.S. undeclared war.

EPS INFLICTS 27 REBEL CASUALTIES IN 2 DAYS

PA061606 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] EPS troops have inflicted 27 casualties on the mercenary forces and arrested 3 contras in 2 days of clashes in Region 5.

It was reported that on 1 August, four mercenaries were killed and one injured in clashes between the EPS and Somozists in La Priscilla area. The EPS also recovered 2 AKA rifles, 3 packs, and 20 AKA cartridges; and rescued 15 civilians who had been kidnapped by the contras.

On 1 August, the EPS also clashed in La Amargura sector, 15 km northwest of El Almendro neighborhood. As a result of those clashes, one mercenary was killed.

Meanwhile, clashes were also taking place 14 km southwest of El Almendro neighborhood, where one mercenary was killed.

ARIAS CALDERON CALLS OVERTHROW PLAN 'GROUNDLESS'

PA051418 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0927 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Panama, 5 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Panamanian opposition Christian Democratic Party [PDC], stated early this morning that the plan reported by the government is "another lie" to prevent a rally by the "Civilianization Crusade."

In statements made to ACAN-EFE, the PDC leader, who opposes the government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle, said the "subversive" plan reported by the authorities is groundless, and only seeks to "prevent the rally" called for this Thursday by the Civilianization Crusade.

Attorney General Carlos Villalaz reported early this morning that during a search on Tuesday of the Chamber of Commerce, which is the headquarters of the opposition "Civilianization Crusade," they found "documents that are very compromising, which are against the state's internal stability."

Among those documents, he added, they found an opposition plan to overthrow the government, which would begin with the withdrawal of all Army high command posts, followed by the formation of a constitutent assembly, whose goal would be to call for general elections within 109 or 12 months.

The "Civilianization Crusade" is a civic organization founded on 9 June 1987 to coordinate the protests against the military authorities and government officials, following accusations made by Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, retired.

Diaz Herrera who had been the chief of the general staff until the end of May, charged General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Army, with "political corruption" and other charges.

Diaz Herrera, who retired against his will on 1 June, remains under arrest at a penitentiary center and has presented no evidence for the charges he has made.

MAYOR LIFTS PROTEST BAN AT DELVALLE'S REQUEST

PA061537 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1508 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] In a last minute statement, Panama City Mayor Jilma Noriega de Jurado has decided to authorize this afternoon's demonstration. To expand on this, Jurado made statements to this station as follows:

[Begin Jurado recording] Good morning listeners. I want to make a necessary explanation. Yesterday, due to the evidence presented by the attorney general and with the possibility of the bloodshed of Panamanians, I, in my position as the top authority in the district and using the powers granted to me by law, suspended today's demonstration.

However, the president called me later to tell me he had made a commitment with the opposition to allow them to stage today's demonstration.

The Constitution calls for harmony between the executive branch and the municipality without altering or affecting municipal autonomy. However, for the sake of the coordination that must exist between the executive branch and the mayor's office, I am hereby suspending the order I gave to allow the president to fulfill the commitment he made with the opposition. So this afternoon's demonstration can be staged as the president wishes, I am withdrawing my ban. [end recording]

Demonstration Proceeds

PA070050 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2355 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] In Panama City, several thousand opposition demonstrators staged a peaceful protest this afternoon in the downtown part of this capital. The protest was characterized by the color white. The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] troops did not get involved in the demonstration.

The demonstration, called by the National Civilianization Crusade to force the ouster of FDP Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega, was authorized, according to Panama City mayor Jilma Noriega de Jurado, by President Eric Delvalle in an effort to reach a compromise with the opposition.

On learning of the statement by the mayor, the demonstrators began to march from various parts of the capital toward the site of the rally, held in the vicinity of the El Carmen Church in the banking sector.

For more than 2 hours, the opposition demonstrators waved white flags and shouted antigovernment slogans, particularly against Noriega, they also shouted slogans such as "Justice, justice" and "A people united will never be defeated."

At the end of the protest march, Ricardo Arias Calderon, [head of the Panamanian Christian Democracy] Deputy Mayin Correa, and Carlos Ivan Zuniga, president of the Popular Action Party, addressed the crowd from a church office.

Deputy Correa made all kinds of offensive statements and charges against Noriega, and Arias Calderon condemned the closure since 17 July of the three opposition newspapers LA PRENSA, EXTRA, and EL SIGLO.

Two speakers who represented the crusade demanded respect for freedom of expression and the immediate reopening of the closed newspapers.

Downtown, traffic was congested as a result of the protest demonstration; traffic policemen diverted traffic toward zones away from the demonstration.

The demonstrators, mostly wearing white, the color symbolizing the protest, threw reams of paper from the buildings and tossed ballons, all white, into the air. Two gigantic balloons hovered over the vicinity of the Catholic Church.

In a climate of gaiety, the opposition members jumped, laughed, sang, and shouted and it appeared to be more of a celebration than a protest.

In the areas near the demonstration, there were small car caravans honking their horns and the drivers waved white handkerchiefs.

Hundreds of university students of various political leanings mingled with the demonstrators. They led the chanting of slogans against the government.

Mayor Noriega said President Delvalle reached a compromise with the opposition to allow the march and because of that, revoked a municipal ban on the demonstration.

Jilma Noriega, said, however, that she did not know whether the president had officially revoked an order decreed on 7 July banning public demonstrations in the country, which has been in effect. The president of the Republic has not commented on the mayor's statements. The march ended by going through 50th Street.

150,000 Participate

PA070237 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0019 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Panama City, 6 Aug (DPA) -- The "National Civilianization Crusade," which groups 112 organizations of the industrial, business, professional, worker, and student sectors of Panama, called a demonstration for today after President Eric Arturo Delvalle himself asked Panama City Mayor Jilma Noriega de Jurado to lift the suspension of the decree that banned meetings, demonstrations, and rallies in the capital city [sentence as received]

The followers of the Civilianization Crusade flocked in great numbers to the meeting point at El Carmen Church, where exactly 1 month ago a demonstration being held there was banned and repressed.

The event developed peacefully; it was like a white carnival in which white handkerchiefs were waved and balloons and confetti abounded. [passage omitted]

International human rights observers witnessed the development of the demonstration.

The speakers at the "Civilianization Crusade" announced a third national strike effective 17 August.

The event was not attended by the principal leaders of the crusade, who feared being arrested in accord with a warrant issued against them for the charges of conspiracy, attributed to them by the Panamanian authorities. [passage omitted]

Afterward, the demonstrators gathered along Via Espana and went to 50th Street, an avenue that has been the principal bastion of struggle of the Civilianization Crusade, but which in the past few days was used by the government troops to stage progovernment demonstrations.

The demonstrators shouted that "The national solution in Panama is a general strike."

Some 150,000 persons participated in the demonstration to protest, according to them, "against the measures of repression of the Army, against the closure of the opposition newspapers, and against the imprisonment of decent persons." The demonstration was also to mark that it has been 2 months since the campaign of civil disobedience and the confrontations with Noriega's Army began in Panama.

CRITICA CITES ARREST WARRANTS AGAINST LEADERS

PA061420 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 6 Aug 87 pp 40, 23

[Report by Hollis Robinson]

[Text] Mario Ballesteros, third superior court prosecutor of the first judicial district, yesterday ordered the arrest of six [number as published] people who appear seriously involved in the subversive actions being planned to overthrow the established powers.

These people appear in documents confiscated by Prosecutor Ballesteros in the searches carried out Monday afternoon at the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the APEDE [Panamanian Association of Business Executives].

Arrest warrants were issued for Aurelia Barria, Gilberto Mallol, Eduardo Vallarino, Roberto Brenes, and Rafael Zuniga.

Those implicated belong to the so-called Civilianization Crusade, an organization opposed to the current government. According to information gathered by this newspaper, they were the ones who incited citizens to disobey the country's laws and they also were involved in the infamous task of slandering the country through telex messages which they sent to foreign newspapers, distorting the truth about the country.

It was also proven [as published] that these anti-Panamanians were involved in writing leaflets inciting rebellion and in issuing orders to their followers so that in future "peaceful" meetings of the Civilianization Crusade they would provoke disorders to create chaos and confusion to achieve their goal of violently overthrowing the current government.

Prosecutor Mario Ballesteros also indicated that various individuals will be called to testify at the third Superior Prosecutor's Office because their names appear in documents seized in the searches carried out by the Attorney General's Office. Those who will be called to testify without running the risk of being subsequently arrested are: Sorayda Vergara, Carlos Sucre, Cesar Tribaldos, F. Boyd, Dr Carlos Abadia, Ada de Gordon, Nestor Mendez, Carlos Ernesto de la Lastra, Alfredo Castillo, Jose Jovane, Irene Perurena, and Cesar Quintero.

Documents confiscated by Mario Ballesteros in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Panama reveal that the chamber is the headquarters of the Civilianization Crusade and that it was used to plan the overthrow of the established powers, according to reports obtained by CRITICA in the Attorney General's Office yesterday morning.

The Chamber of Commerce was searched on Monday morning and authorities found a large amount of material that gave precise instructions on how to carry out the overthrow of the constitutional government.

The objects confiscated during the search of the Chamber of Commerce included an official seal belonging to the third superior court prosecutor's office. It was found hidden in the ceiling of one of the Chamber of Commerce offices. Ballesteros said that the seal was stolen during the questioning of Aurelio Barria, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who went to Ballesteros' office with other people for a judicial inquiry.

Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalaz told CRITICA that Prosecutor Mario Ballesteros will be in charge of all the investigations concerning the illegal activities of the Civilianization Crusade and that all the documents confiscated by that official on Monday afternoon in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be added to the proof already gathered in previously undertaken inquiries.

CIVILIANIZATION CRUSADE CALLS FOR GENERAL STRIKE

PA070154 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2352 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] Panama City, 6 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition "National Civilianization Crusade" of Panama today announced that there will be a new general strike effective 17 August to demand that Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega step down. The 72-hour strike, which can be extended, was announced during a demonstration held by the Crusade this afternoon and which gathered several thousand people around a local church.

The Crusade, made up of more than 100 labor, professional, commercial, and industrial organizations, staged a general strike on 27-28 July that paralyzed 90 percent of the country, according to opposition sources.

During the demonstration, the opposition members rejected the possibility of engaging a dialogue with the Panamanian Government to resolve the political crisis that began 2 months ago.

The crisis was prompted by statements made by retired Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, who accused Gen Noriega of corruption and drug trafficking, but following his arrest, on 27 July, he retracted his charges.

The president of the Christian Democratic Party, which supports the Crusade, told ACAN-EFE that the commercial strike "is an effective means of pressure," and that alternating economic protests and sociopolitical protests "until the government yields" is positive.

Tomas Herrera, one of the crusade's lawyers, said they "will not capitulate and will persist in the struggle" demanding the ouster and trial of Noreiga. The opposition leader stressed that "the current crisis situation is ruining the country, and this must be avoided by toppling the military head."

Another of the speakers during the demonstration, Maria Jovane, a teacher, said there cannot be peace without armies, or armies for peace, as Gen Noriega wants the country to believe. "We want more schools and less garrisons, more teachers and less troops," Jovane reiterated proposing, on behalf of the Crusade, the creation of a constituent assembly to replace the current regime and to advance the holding of democratic elections to 1988.

PRESS ASSOCIATION ON CLOSURES, LACK OF FREEDOM

PA070159 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2357 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Panama City, 6 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Peruvian Alejandro Miro Quesada, president of the Inter-American Press Association [SIP], said today that in Panama "there is no freedom of press," and drew a comparison to the situations in Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Cuba.

Miro Quesada regretted that during his visit to Panama both President Eric Arturo Delvalle and Panama Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega refused to receive the SIP delegation, which returned to the United States today.

According to the SIP president, the delegation arrived to gather first-hand reports on the closure since 17 July of three newspapers and two weeklies of the opposition: LA PRENSA, EL SIGLO, EXTRA, QUIUBO GRAFICO, and LA GACETA FINANCIERA.

Regarding the request for an audience with Delvalle and Noriega, the government, according to what Miro Quesada told newsmen, referred them to the Government Ministry, because these publications are the object of a judicial investigation for the alleged crime of "rebellion and sedition." [passage omitted]

Miro Quesada said that, although the SIP is interested in knowing about the judicial proceedings against the newspapers, any decision to reopen them is "political," and therefore it was necessary to meet with Delvalle and Noriega.

Lawyer Discusses Closures

PA052221 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2022 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Panama City, 4 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Newspaper sources have reported that the opposition newspapers -- three dailies and one weekly -- continue to be closed for the 9th consecutive day. Legal authorities in charge of investigating the papers have still not announced when they will be reopened.

Carlos Cuestat, lawyer for LA PRENSA and QUIUBO GRAFICO, told ACAN-EFE today that the 7th Circuit Court had not answered his request last Friday that both papers be reopened; in fact, he has not even been called in to testify.

Official sources have revealed that the four newspapers (LA PRENSA, EL SIGLO, EXTRA and QUIUBO GRAFICO) will remain closed until the charges of "inciting rebellion and sedition" have been investigated.

On 26 July, the governorship of the Province of Panama ordered the temporary closure of the printing rooms of the opposition newspapers while they are investigated for allegedly "inciting rebellion, sedition, or mutiny," which in this country is punished with 6 months to 2 years in prison or a fine of $20 to $100.

According to newsmen from the affected papers, police raided the installations of the opposition media and continue to patrol the respective premises.

The LA PRENSA lawyer claimed the raid originally affected only the press room. However, police patrols prevented executives and workers, 170 persons altogether, from entering the building housing the composition room and the administrative offices of the paper, which has a daily circulation of over 30,000.

According to Ceustas, himself a former district attorney, the charges of "rebellion and sedition" against the media he represents are "false," because "there is no armed rebellion, and no one has incited anyone to take up arms."

He added that District Attorney Daysi Sanchez picked up documents and materials from LA PRENSA without prior notification and without the presence of the paper's legal representative and that this is a violation of the law.

Cuestas maintained that "it is very strange" that the summary proceedings against the media are for the alleged offense of "attacking the integrity of the state" but that nobody has been arrested so far.

The four newspapers have supported the activities of the opposition's "Civilianization Crusade," founded in early June, which seeks the ouster of General Manuel Antonio Noreiga, chief of the Defense Forces.

LA PRENSA last week submitted an injunction for protection of its constitutional guarantees because its closing was considered illegal. However, the first superior court of justice has not yet made a ruling.

In the case of EL SIGLO, the same court declared that the injunction submitted by Jaime Padilla Gonzalez against the closure order issued by the district attorney's office of the sixth district court was "inadmissable" and pointed out that the legal statute applicable here is called "controversial incident."

The Ministry of Government and Justice has warned television and radio stations that their frequencies may be revoked if "the Executive Branch considers the stations to be inciting violence or disobeyance of the law."

The ministry has recalled that the state is "owner and soveriegn" of the frequencies and that it will now allow "abuses" to be transmitted via microphone.

The U.S. Embassy urged the government 8 days ago to "end immediately all types of intimidation and censorship of the press." The Foreign Ministry termed this statement "intervention" in Panama's domestic affairs.

In its reply to the embassy, the Foreign Ministry wonders if there is an ulterior plan to establish "a regime that will allow the use of the installations and military forces the United States has in Panama for purposes other than those authorized by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties."

The four closed newspapers were not published on some days during the state of emergency decreed by the government between 10 and 29 June, because they had to submit to prior censorship.

LA PRENSA, the main opposition newspaper, is 7 years old today.

Communique on Foreign Reporters

PA301530 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Jul 87 pp 40, 28

["Communique to Foreign Correspondents" from Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon in Panama City on 29 July]

[Text] Before expressing some points concerning the proper conduct of a foreign correspondent who exercises his profession as a journalist in our country, the Government and Justice Ministry deems it opportune to clarify the following:

1. Regarding the situation of the newspapers LA PRENSA, EL SIGLO, and EXTRA, we can report that criminal charges were filed against them at the Attorney General's Office for the offense covered by Article 306 of the Penal Code, which textually states:

"Article 306: He who in a public forum or through the press, radio, television or any other communications media incites to rebellion, sedition or uprising will be penalized with 6 months to 2 years and 20 to 100 days fine [as published]."

After a summary investigation and after finding sufficient grounds, the various district attorney offices where the charges were filed ordered the temporary closure of the aforementioned newspapers while the proceedings are carried out. The Attorney General's Office has done all of this within the legal framework of our judicial system.

2. Regarding the arrest of Mr Roberto Diaz Herrera, it was carried out because he ignored the repeated summons issued by the Attorney General's Office. He is currently under arrest because criminal proceedings have been started against him for "crimes against the internal image of the state" covered in Chapter II, Title IX, Book II of the Panamanian Penal Code.

After this explanation, we express the following thoughts:

As a result of the latest events that have been taking place since 10 June, we have been observing that some foreign correspondents have not been acting under the principles of professional ethics, truthfulness, and objectivity which their condition as international journalists demands.

Our government believes in freedom of speech. Article 37 of our Constitution establishes that any individual can freely express his thoughts verbally, in writing, or by any other means without being subject to prior censorship; however, legal responsibilities exist when the reputation or honor of individuals, or social security or public order are attacked through any of these means. This constitutional concept contains a wise principle of equilibrium regarding freedom of speech which makes us understand that it cannot be exercised when it is improperly used by a social communications medium. It is unquestionable and undeniable that controls are established in a state to penalize the abuses of libertinism and bad information.

Article 15 of our Constitution states: "Both nationals and foreigners who are in the territory of the Republic will fall under the Constitution and the laws."

In our country, Law 76 of 29 September 1978 regulates the exercise of the profession of journalist in the Republic of Panama, whether national or foreigner. Articles 10 and 11 specifically establish the formalities that the foreign correspondents must fulfill to be able to exercise their profession in the country. The nonfulfillment of these rules entails penalities established by law.

The national government is concerned about the disinformation that some foreign correspondents maintain regarding the actual situation in Panama. In some cases, government officials have given clear and concrete interviews and these reports have been altered when they are made public. In other cases, we have as an example the UPI international news agency, which reported that the motorcade that took place on Monday, 27 July, was of the opposition; this is false because it was organized by sectors that support the national government.

The ACAN-EFE international news agency covered a police case that occurred in Valle de Anton, Cocle Province in which a citizen Enrique Carrera died. It reported this case as if it were a political crime.

It is important that we point out that Panamanian law, through Article 15 of Law 67 of 29 September 1978, establishes that national and foreign journalists are obliged to act in line with the principles of professional ethics, at the service of truth and the objectivity of the reports.

For this reason, the Government and Justice Ministry announces that it will not tolerate the continuation of the disinformation by some international news agencies which through this conduct, seem to be seeking the destruction of our country's image abroad, with the consequent harm to all Panamanians.

We trust that the foreign correspondents in Panama will understand, with the experience and capacity they have had in the exercise of journalism, that freedom of speech is also disrespected and attacked at the international level when a journalist exploits the sensationalism of an untruthful report to obtain the attention of the general public.

Issued in Panama City on 29 July 1987

The original is signed

Rodolfo Chiari De Leon

Government and Justice Minister

ALFONSIN SPEAKS ON STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

PY060353 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1810 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Olavarria, 5 Aug (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today said in this town, southwest of Buenos Aires, that to act with "a firm hand" toward the state-owned enterprises "is not an ideological problem" because "if they are not effective, they conspire against the Argentine people and against democracy."

Alfonsin also said that to deal with the problem of the state-owned enterprises, his government relies on "the understanding of the Argentine labor unions and workers," because "they know it is necessary to overcome the problem, which may represent danger or risk to the sources of labor themselves."

The president commented on the effectiveness of state-owned enterprises in a speech delivered from a Olavarria main square rostrum during one of his visits to the country's interior which he is taking 1 month before the general elections. Some 2,000 people carrying posters for the ruling party and for the opposition attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Alfonsin added that the participation of the people "is also important for the consolidation of democracy." He said: "democracy has not been bought by the Argentines. We must look after it so we can be entirely certain that the rest of our lives and those of our children will be spent in freedom." Alfonsin said "certain sectors do not understand democracy." He emphasized that "the elitist conceptions" of the ultra right, left, or center "have been suffocated by the extraordinary progress of the Argentine people, which is represented by all democratic parties."

Later, referring to the two industrial plants he visited in Olavarria, Alfonsin said Argentina "should not fear the incorporation of whatever technology it may need to achieve its modernization." [passage omitted] Alfonsin said: "The Argentine people are the protagonists in this stage of Argentine history. We need people like those today at this square, where they have come to discuss their points of view, because a ceremony like today's does not eliminate the possibilities of a dialogue or a debate." He added that "it is easy to make a list of all the goals still to be achieved. We know, however, that we are following the right route, and that we must make changes every so often, becaue we must overcome the vicious circle of underdevelopment. This can only be achieved if we get used to changing our opinions." [passage omitted]

ALFONSIN ON AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK ISSUES

PY061936 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Excerpts] President Raul Alfonsin today expressed his desire for the agricultural and livestock sector to grow at a faster pace. He said it is essential to increase exports and find meat substitutes for the domestic market because it still is more comfortable and practical to put a steak on the grill than to eat other foods.

Alfonsin made these comments this morning during a visit to the 101st International Cattle, Agriculture, and Industry Fair sponsored by the Argentine Rural Society [SRA] in the Palermo district of Buenos Aires.

Our reporter, Silvina Martinez Porta, was there. Good afternoon, Silvina.

Good afternoon, Daniel. Thank you, very much.

President Raul Alfonsin at 0730 visited the 101st International Cattle, Agriculture, and Industry Fair at the SRA grounds in Palermo. After having breakfast with the SRA officials at the fair and visiting the stands, Alfonsin said that despite everything, the government and cattlemen are determined that Argentina remain a leading cattle-raising country.

SRA President Guillermo Alchouron then expressed satisfaction to the president regarding the decision to eliminate foreign exchange withholdings from agriculture and livestock exports.

During his chat with reporters, the chief executive discussed international prices for agricultural and livestock products, the recent measures, and the increase in meat prices, among other things. [passage omitted]

Regarding upcoming elections, the president said that on 7 September we will all be united and working together.

These were the comments Alfonsin made this morning after visiting the 101st International Cattle, Agriculture, and Industry Fair at the SRA grounds in Palermo. Alfonsin will officially open the fair on 8 August.

NICARAGUAN EMBASSY DENIES AIRPLANE PURCHASE

PY070323 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2220 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Aug (DYN) -- The Nicaraguan Embassy in Argentina has categorically denied the reports on Nicaraguan purchases of Argentine airplanes and has reasserted the "unrenounceable right and primary duty" of the Nicaraguan Government and people to "resort to any means necessary to defend their freedom, interdependence, and sovereignty."

In a communique distributed here today, the Nicaraguan Embassy attributed the report to a "discrediting campaign" to "make our country seem as if it were arming itself," while simultaneously the Reagan administration "is asking Congress for more money to bring death and pain to Nicaragua," at a time when the Central American presidents are preparing a meeting in Guatemala "to seek peace" in the region.

The Nicaraguan Embassy also denied that Defense Minister Humberto Ortega and the newspaper BARRICADA had reported on the purchase of airplanes from Argentina. The embassy reasserted the Nicaraguan Government's position "of practicing prudence" and "resorting to any means necessary to find a peaceful solution."

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica are meeting in Guatemala to draw up a document to be presented to the summit meeting that will start tomorrow.

GOVERNMENT CREATES ANTIDRUG TRAFFICKING COUNCIL

PY061305 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 29 Jul 87 p 1, 5

[Text] The government has created the National Council Against Drug Misuse and Illegal Drug Traffic in order to establish policies for development, restriction, repression, prevention, and rehabilitation in the framework of the Plan for Development and Substitution of Coca Plantations [Plan Integral de Desarrollo y Substitucion de Coca -- PIDYS]. The Bolivian Government believes there is a firm national determination to eradicate drug trafficking and consumption. In keeping with a UN world program approved by the international community in a recent meeting in Vienna, all countries have agreed to undertake government campaigns in this respect without delay. In face of this responsibility, the executive branch has decided to issue a decree to establish the different offices that will carry out the national policy to eradicate drug trafficking and consumption.

Text of the decree: Article 1 - Establishes the creation of the National Council against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking. The council will be presided over by the foreign affairs and worship minister, and comprised of the ministers of the interior, migration and justice, national defense, planning and coordination, compesino affairs, and an executive secretary. The objective of this national council is to define, outline, implement, and establish policies for development, restriction, repression, prevention, and rehabilitation in the framework of the PIDYS, as well as other complementary measures. The executive secretary will be called the under secretary for Alternative Development and Substitution of Coca Plantations. He will be in charge of the compliance of the orders of the national council.

Article 2 - Establishes the creation of the Secretariat of Alternative Development and Substitution of Coca Plantations. It will depend on the Campesino Affairs Ministry, and will have the following duties:

A) Intersectorial coordination, in order to implement the policy outlined by the national council.

B) To negotiate and administer international, bilateral, and multilateral cooperation that will allow the execution of the PIDYS.

C) To direct the programs and projects in the fields of plantation substitutions, economic reactivation, regional development, prevention, and rehabilitation.

D) To act as the counterpart of the multilateral and bilateral cooperation organizations that will support the PIDYS.

E) To develop other activities related with its objectives.

Article 3 - Establishes the creation of the Social Defense Secretariat. It will depend on the Interior, Migration and Justice Ministries, and will implement drug trafficking restricting policies.

Article 4 - Establishes the creation of a Special Force Against Drug Trafficking dependent on the Interior, Migration and Justice Ministries. It will be made up of Armed Forces and police members who will serve under assignment on this specialized unit which will be used exclusively to fight drug trafficking under the command of its appropriate chiefs.

Article 5 - Establishes that the plans, programs, projects, and implementing organizations will as of today come under the Alternate Development Under Secretariat

in matters pertaining to functional, technical, and administrative aspects in accordance with the following:
A) USAID, PL 480, INM and others: Bilateral cooperation. [subhead]
a. Regional development of the Chapare 5110543.
b. Emergency agricultural Credit (recycling) [reflujos].
c. The production of coca leaves equal to the level of the legal demand 310401-0604 (INM).
d. Economic Support Fund (ESF).
e. Rural roads II 5110472.
f. Titles I, II, and III of the PL 480 pertaining to the actions of Alternative Development.
g. educational project against drugs 5110583.
h. Precautions against drugs.
i. Other projects that will be signed in the future.
B) UNFDA, PNUD, OPE, and other international agencies: Multilateral cooperation. [subhead]
a. AD-BOL-84-405: "Agricultural diversification and agroindustrial development in the Yungas, La Paz Department."
b. AD-BOL-84-406: "The preparation and implementation of the activities pertaining to the rehabilitation of drug addicts."
c. AD-BOL-86-408: "Sosio-community development and health project in the Yungas, La Paz Department."
d. AD-BOL-86-409: "Preparatory assistance and precautionary measures and a change of attitude in view of the drug problem."
e. "Other agreements that will be signed in the future with multilateral agencies at the subregional, regional, and international level to meet the needs of the National Council.
C) Participation in the Following Projects. [subhead]
a. Agroindustry and handicrafts 5110511.
b. The creation of capital for secondary projects 5110573.
c. Drinking water and sanitation activities 5110582.
d. The organization of small private farmers 5110589.
e. Industrial transition project 5110577.
f. The export of handicrafts 511083.
g. Training to help development 51184.
h. Training initiatives 5980622.
i. Training initiatives II 5980622.
j. Emergency agricultural credit 5110591.
Article 6 - The Civil Defense Under Secretariat of the Interior Ministry will coordinate the following programs and projects:
A) Bilateral Cooperation. [subhead]
a. The drug control program 310401-0101a.
b. Special investigations 310401-0101c.
c. Others that will be signed in the future and pertain to the specific area of stopping illegal drug trafficking.
B) Multilateral Cooperation. [subhead]
a. AD-BOL-860409: "National fight against drug trafficking; institutional support."
b. Others that will be signed in the future with international cooperation organizations in the area of stopping drug trafficking.
Article 7 - The Finance Ministry will assign the necessary funds for the normal functioning of the Alternate Development and Substitution of Coca Plantations Under Secretariat and the Social Defense Under Secretariat, and the funds Bolivia will need to contribute within the framework of international, bilateral, and multilateral agreements.
Article 8 - All measures that are contrary to the contents of this supreme decree are hereby abrogated.

INTERIOR MINISTER QUITS; REGIONAL OFFICIAL FIRED

PY070109 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Joaquim Francisco Cavalcanti announced in Brasilia this afternoon that he has resigned from his post. Deputy Cavalcanti resigned after only 95 days at the head of the Interior Ministry. During this period, the minister never denied that he had disagreements with SUDENE [Superintendency for the Development of the Northeast] Superintendent Doreri Sampaio. Cavalcanti belongs to the PFL [Liberal Front Party] of Pernambuco State, while Sampaio is linked to Pernambuco State Governor Miguel Arraes of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party]. Deputy Cavalcanti received the largest number of votes in his state in the latest elections. He received over 120,000 votes. [passage omitted]

Civil Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto has just informed PMDB President Ulysses Guimaraes that SUDENE Superintendent Doreri Sampaio has been fired.

BRESSER DISCUSSES ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT SENATE

PY060345 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 Aug 87

[By Reporter Carlos Alberto]

[Text] The Senate this afternoon debated the Brazilian domestic and international economies for almost 2 hours. Finance Minister Bresser Pereira detailed the main current economic problems and answered questions and proposals made by the senators.

Bresser said, for example, that to transform part of the foreign debt into capital can and should be done. He added that the government is studying the adoption of this measure.

Bresser said that although this measure does not solve the debt problem, it is investment, and would thus give dynamism to the Brazilian economy which is stagnant. Bresser also reaffirmed the possibility of obtaining loans from Japanese banks without having to go to the IMF.

The finance minister disagreed with some senators who said that to go to the IMF is to commit suicide. I am not worried about this suicide, the minister said. First we must reach an agreement with the private banks, and this takes some time.

Bresser told the senators it is essential to reactivate foreign investments, but he does not believe it necessary to establish rules on how this should be done. He added that he believes the Brazilian position is liberal regarding this issue.

Bresser concluded by telling the members of the Senate Economy Subcommittee he is proud of belonging to the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], and he is sure the international banks are not interested in retaliating against Brazil on the moratorium issue because they make a great deal of money out of Brazil.

AIR FORCE MINISTER FAVORS CONSTRUCTION OF AMX

PY070220 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Aug 87

[By Gal Valadares from the Air Force Ministry]

[Text] The FND [National Development Fund] will finance the construction of the AMX plane. Despite all the discussions, the Air Force Ministry will really use the FND funds to finance the AMX fighter-plane project, which will be constructed by Embraer, Italy, and England, Air Force Minister Moreira Lima said.

According to Moreira Lima, the decision was made exclusively by the SEPLAN [Planning Secretariat], and not be the Air Force.

[Begin Moreira Lima recording] [In progress] ...in the Air Force have been requesting funds to invest in the development of the project. Throughout the years, these funds were always obtained from the national budget, and then assigned to the Air Force Ministry. This year, however, as a result of technical studies it carried out, the SEPLAN decided to assign FND funds to the AMX project. It has been an entirely technical decision made by the SEPLAN. [end recording]

In Minister Moreira Lima's opinion, the criticism aimed at the AMX project is groundless because it is very important for Brazil to manufacture this plane. In the minister's opinion, this project has three exceptional advantages:

1. It helps to develop the Brazilian war materiel industry;

2. It prevents Brazil from spending currency in purchasing this type of plane; and

3. It will bring currency to Brazil through its sale abroad.

BRIEFS

RIO-LENINGRAD TWIN CITIES -- Rio de Janeiro Mayor Saturnino Braga and Vice President of the Executive Committee of Leningrad's Worker Deputies Valentina Matvienko yesterday signed an agreement of friendship and cooperation for cultural exchange. Under this agreement the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Leningrad are declared Twin Cities. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Jul 87 p 12 PY]

COCAINE SEIZED -- Federal Police have arrested a drug trafficking gang in Belem in possession of 11 kg of cocaine. The gang was comprised of two Colombians, one Peruvian and one Brazilian. The Brazilian, Manuel Batista Felix, was a pilot. Police believe three other Colombians and Brazilian Silvana Lucia Nascimento da Silva are also involved with the gang activities. [Text] [Brasilia Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Jul 87 PY]

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASE -- The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] has reported that the unemployment rate in the metropolitan areas of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Recife, Salvador, and Porto Alegre increased from 3.97 percent in June to 4.4 percent in July. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jul 87 PY]

GENERAL SAYS PLEBISCITE REMARKS 'TWISTED' BY MEDIA

PA070228 Paris AFP in Spanish 0012 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] Concepcion, Chile, 6 Aug (AFP) -- General Eduardo Ibanez, who unleashed a controversy in Chile when he announced that the plebiscite to elect the president of the Republic will be held next year instead of 1989 as scheduled, said today that his words had been twisted by the news media.

Gen Ibanez spoke during four public events in communities of Nuble Province, 400 km south of Santiago, and referred to "the 1988 plebiscite," which confirmed the reports that the government will move up the event where top-level military leaders will propose a candidate -- who might be President Augusto Pinochet himself.

Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez was asked today in Santiago about the statements issued by the top-level officer, who is commander of the Army's 3d Division, and said the government has not decided when the plebiscite will take place.

Ibanez, who is a close collaborator of General Pinochet, also issued a "necessary clarification" in Concepcion, where he works as governor of Bio Bio. "It is necessary to clarify certain information which was published in a twisted way," the governor said. He also issued a written communique stating that when he said "there were only 200 days before the plebiscite" he had begun to count from April 1988.

The governor said during a speech last Monday in the community of Coelemu that the plebiscite would be held in 1988 and "we should not deceive ourselves about this." "That is why we are eliminating the plebiscite of 1989 and are talking about the plebiscite of 1988," he said, quoting the political Constitution, which established the mechanism to appoint the president of the Republic.

During a meeting with people in the zone of Ninhue, Ibanez asked: "How many here will vote for the so-called 1989 plebiscite which will now be held in 1988...?"

During a speech in the community of San Carlos last Tuesday, the governor said 1988 is "the year of the plebiscite," and if Gen Augusto Pinochet is the candidate appointed by the top-level military commanders, then "we will join them" to support his candidacy. "The goals have been established," he emphasized.

Asked about his statements during the regional tour, Gen Ibanez insisted -- through statements recorded by local journalists -- that "we must be realistic and talk about the 1988 plebiscite," and he added that "the 1989 syndrome must end."

Gen Ibanez' statements caused surprise among the opposition sectors because such an announcement should have been issued by President Pinochet, according to some leaders.

Christian Democratic leader Patricio Aywyn said the military commander's statements are unimportant because they seem to reflect "the general's personal wishes." Likewise, former Communist Senator Maria Maluenda said the top-level military officer's statements reveal "the regime's fear of facing the possibility that the people may have time to organize and freely state their opinion.

Rectifies Statement

PY060134 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Eighth region intendant Brigadier General Eduardo Ibanez Terrerias said the plebiscite will be held as is established in the Constitution. He thus clarified and broadened the statements he made at the (Mingue) district during a tour of (Nuble) Province. Gen Ibanez said on that occasion that the Constitution is not being debated, because it will not be amended. He added that transitory Article 27 established that the Armed Forces commanders in chief and the Carabineros director will unanimously propose to the country the name of a person who, subject to the results of the plebiscite, will assume the presidency on 11 March 1989. [passage omitted]

ORBE Denies Plebiscite Moved Up

PY061240 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0455 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] Santiago, 5 Aug (EFE) -- The government press agency ORBE, in a terse 5-line note, this evening denied rumors that a high-ranking Chilean military officer had announced that the presidential plebiscite date would be moved forward.

According to information obtained by Radio Cooperativa, General Eduardo Ibanez Terrerias, intendant of the 8th region, during a public event in Ninhua (400 km south of Santiago) said there were "only 200 working days left before the plebiscite."

This means that the plebiscite called for in the Constitution to elect a successor to the current chief of state could be held around May 1988.

However, according to ORBE, which cites Interior Ministry sources, "the government has not made a decision in this regard."

According to the Constitution currently in force, General Augusto Pinochet's presidential term will end on 11 March 1989. At least 3 months prior to that date the commanders of the Armed Forces will appoint a single candidate who will run in a plebiscite.

BRIEFS

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH ELECTIONS -- Yesterday, student Felipe Sandoval was elected president of the Christian Democratic Youth [JDC]. The vice presidents of the JDC Executive Board are: Yerko Ljuvetic, Guillermo Pickering, and Ruben Valenzuela, with Jorge Ibarra as secretary general. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 27 Jul 87 p 8 PY]

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES INCREASE -- In its issue released yesterday, the economic magazine CARTA SEMANAL stated that during the first 6 months of 1987, the gross international reserves in deposit at the Central Bank increased by $19 million. The reserves in December 1986 totaled $1,778,300,000. The magazine also states that during the January-June period this year, the net international assets of the Central Bank -- comprising the gross international reserves and the IMF disbursed credits -- increased by $77.3 million. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 28 Jul 87 p 13 PY]

'MASSIVE' CROWD AT OPPOSITION FRONT RALLY

PM061543 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 3 Aug 87 p 3

[Wim Noordegraaf dispatch: "Suriname's Old Parties Draw Massive Crowd"]

[Text] Paramaribo -- The first big public meeting of the three old political parties in Suriname -- the NPS [Suriname National Party], VHP [Progressive Reformed party], and KTPI [Indonesian Peasants' Party] -- drew large numbers of Surinamers. The parties estimate the number of those who attended at 60,000, although this estimate is probably too optimistic. At the meeting the "Front for Democracy and Development," called "the Front" for short, was announced. It is under this name that the old parties will take up the struggle against [National Army Chief] Bouterse's NDP [National Democratic Party].

According to NPS chairman Henck Arron the large turnout at the meeting to proclaim the formation of the Front shows that the struggle has really already been won. To the loud cheers of the crowd Arron said that "an ark is being built through which the Surinamese people will survive our time's flood. We are piloting you to safer waters." The meeting had already been addressed by Reverend Doelwijt, who blessed the cooperation between the old parties in a sermon in which he called on the Almighty to "deliver" the country "from the devils who rule us."

It was to hear such words and the promise that everything will be better in Suriname after the 25 November elections that the crowd had gathered. Under the old parties life was safer and quieter, all the speakers stressed. Arron listed all the things of which the Surinamers are tired: the shortage of food, the feeling of not being free, and the bloody fighting in eastern Suriname. He promised to put an end to this after the elections.

Soemita, the chairman of the Javanese KTPI, gave an account of the obstacles that the authorities had put in the way of the mass meeting: At the last moment the place for the meeting had to be changed, the important ferries over the Suriname and Coppename Rivers were suddenly said to be experiencing difficulties, and overnight a large pop festival was organized in order to keep young people away from the meeting to announce the formation of the Front.

State radio had also originally been banned from broadcasting a specially written Front battle song, but this ban was personally overturned by Prime Minister Jules Wijdenbosch.

Jaggernath Lachmon, for 40 years the leader of the originally Hindustani VHP, gave an overview of Suriname's foreign debts, which have now reached 150 million guilders. He spoke of a deep valley out of which Suriname will not be able to climb without help. The help must come, Lachmon said, from a country "somewhere on the North Sea." Not afte the due processes of law at the International Court in the Hague, but after a resounding election victory by the Front on 25 November.

Lachmon: "Bouterse has said that Suriname cannot be built up if there is no unity. This unity has been created today. Bouterse has said that the elections will not feed people. That is true, but first we must have the elections. Then we will feed people. Without the elections they would indeed have to go on standing in line."

Not all the words of the politicians went down well with the crowd. "Isn't he promising too much, " a woman in the crowd asked, "he probably can't keep all his promises immediately and then he will have problems with the people." But the majority of the crowd were not worried on this point. "We are going to the North Sea, to get our money and to put an end to the lines," the crowd cheered along with Lachmon.

"We do not need a judgment from the International Court, we need your judgment," said the VHP leader, who also stressed that Suriname must begin to produce goods for export. For: "I will not bring up my people so that they will always go on counting on aid. But when democracy returns on 25 November, the world will once again be open to us. Then we will ask the world to help us, so that later we will be able to stand on our own two feet."

He advised his audience to keep on tightening their belts until the elections. The meeting's organizers called on the crowd to "disperse in a dignified manner." Deeply content the crowd complied with the call.

COMPANIES RESUME OPERATIONS AS SITUATION EASES

Aluminum Mines To Reopen

FL062053 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] The Suralco [Suriname Aluminum Company] mines at Moengo will resume production of ore to be transported to the aluminum refinery at Paranam. This was stated Tuesday by Moengo's factory manager (Janof) to a government delegation which paid a visit to the area. The operations will start with about 50 workes and by mid-September it is hoped that altogether 220 workers will be reemployed.

The government delegation will today report to the cabinet regarding the resumption of the various public services in the bauxite village, in an attempt to normalize the situation. The Ministry of Education has announced that some schools in the east and south of Suriname will reopen at the beginning of the new school year.

Palm Oil Refinery Reopens

FL062107 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] About 220 workers at a plam oil company, Victoria, are back on the job. The company was closed since November last year because of terrorist actions. The workers are presently engaged in repair and maintenance works to the refinery. Next week they'll start working in the fields.

While the building is in a good shape, the plants, which were left unattended, are in a bad shape. About one-fifth of the cultivation will have to be destroyed because of infestation. According to the management, damage to the plants in the nursery is in the vicinity of millions of guilders.